

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 18, 1966

FROM : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. Lenihan

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
NOVEMBER 22, 1963

Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend that the Bureau cooperate with Mr. Richard J. Whalen in providing facts for Mr. Whalen to use in an article to appear in the "Saturday Evening Post" in the near future, aimed at silencing critics of the Warren Commission Report.

Richard J. Whalen is an intellectual conservative. He is reliable and trustworthy and has an extremely high opinion of the Bureau. He was born in 1935 in New York City and was graduated with honors from Queens College in 1957. He formerly was associated with the Richmond, Virginia, "News Leader" and subsequently was a contributing editor for "Time" magazine, writing on national affairs, and was later an editorial writer for the "Wall Street Journal." In 1962, he joined the staff of "Fortune" magazine as an associate editor. He recently wrote a book entitled "The Founding Father: The Story of Joseph P. Kennedy." This book was written by Whalen over the Kennedys' objections. It was factual and not praiseworthy of the Kennedys.

Mr. Whalen has contacted the Bureau and requested that the FBI cooperate with him in bringing forth to the American people the full truth concerning the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy. Whalen states he feels that this is absolutely necessary since he believed he and the Bureau shared a rising apprehension at the new-won respectability and possible acceptance of the various conspiracy mongers. Whalen stated what is profoundly disturbing in this development is the fact that their attack is directed against the person and the policies - particularly the Vietnam policy - of President Kennedy's successor. Whalen stated in his opinion it is imperative that the defenders of the main findings of the Warren Commission promptly regain the initiative.

Whalen specifically requested that he be allowed to conduct "not-for-attribution interviews of the most candid nature and at the earliest possible date" with five Special Agents of this Bureau. Agents to be interviewed would be the two Special Agents of the Baltimore Office who were present at the Bethesda

62-109060

REL: kas:cls (8)
62 DEC 21 1966

CONTINUED - OVER

Section 106

Memorandum Sullivan to DeLoach
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
62-109060

Hospital when the autopsy was initially performed on President Kennedy on the evening of 11-22-63 and three Special Agents of the FBI Laboratory who furnished exacting evidence to the Warren Commission produced in our investigation of the assassination. (Special Agents Frazier, Shaneyfelt and Gallagher)

Mr. Whalen also requested that restrictions be lifted from certain documents now stored in the National Archives in order that Whalen could review such data. He listed four documents in particular he desired to have access to and a review of our files disclosed all four items are already available to the public in the National Archives.

OBSERVATIONS

At the present time there is a considerable number of books, articles and newspaper stories appearing in American publications criticizing the Report of the Warren Commission and the manner in which the Warren Commission arrived at its conclusions. Among the more prominent critics are Mark Lane, who wrote "Rush to Judgment"; Edward Epstein, who wrote "Inquest"; Penn Jones, Jr., who wrote "Forgive My Grief"; Leo Sauvage, who wrote "The Oswald Affair"; and Harold Weisberg, who wrote "Whitewash - The Report of the Warren Report." Each of these works contain wild and unsubstantiated allegations and all have been subject of separate review at Seat of Government.

Each of these writers, in criticizing the Warren Commission, has also directly or indirectly criticized the FBI and our investigation of the assassination. It appears that it would be in the best interests of this Bureau to cooperate with Mr. Whalen in his efforts to bring the complete truth before the American people. Our investigation was sound, we have absolutely nothing to hide, and no critic has brought forth even one scintilla of evidence that would disprove our findings; that is, that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin, that he acted alone, and that there was no conspiracy involved in the assassination of the late President Kennedy.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this Bureau cooperate with Mr. Richard J. Whalen, in strict confidence with no attribution to the FBI, on his current endeavor to bring the full truth concerning the assassination to the attention of the American people. This will necessitate permitting Mr. Whalen to personally discuss evidential matters with FBI Special Agent personnel and will also necessitate our assisting Mr. Whalen to locate specific data in copies of our reports and exhibits maintained in the National Archives, now public domain, which clearly refute the false allegations of the various critics of the Warren Commission Report.